

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Bluestone Hardrock quarry project.

Having worked in the development industry for approximately 40 years as a Surveyor, Project Manager and Infrastructure Manager, I have gained extensive experience in land development, infrastructure delivery, construction, and the supply chains that support growing communities. Throughout this time, I have observed the critical role that quarry materials play in enabling residential, commercial, industrial, and public infrastructure projects.

The demand for construction materials continues to increase as population growth drives the need for new housing, roads, utilities, schools, and community facilities. Reliable access to locally sourced gravel and quarry products is essential to meet these needs efficiently and cost-effectively. Without an adequate local supply of quarry materials, development costs increase, transportation distances become longer, community impacts become greater, and the delivery of important infrastructure can be delayed.

The proposed Bluestone Hardrock quarry is particularly well positioned due to its proximity to a significant growth region. Locating extractive industries close to areas of demand reduces transport distances, lowers freight costs, decreases fuel consumption, and limits the number of heavy vehicle kilometres required to deliver materials. This not only supports economic efficiency but can also provide environmental benefits when compared with sourcing materials from more distant locations.

The proposal also offers important economic and employment benefits. Quarry operations generate direct jobs through extraction, processing, maintenance, administration, and site management. In addition, they support a wide range of indirect employment opportunities in transport, equipment supply, engineering, construction, and related service industries. These employment opportunities contribute to the local economy and provide ongoing benefits to the surrounding region.

I acknowledge that quarry operations can give rise to concerns relating to noise, dust, traffic, visual impacts, and environmental management. However, modern planning frameworks, environmental regulations, and compliance requirements are specifically designed to address and manage these issues. When appropriately regulated and monitored, quarry operations can operate responsibly while maintaining acceptable environmental and community outcomes.

In my experience, the key to successful quarry operations lies in the implementation of robust management plans, clear operating conditions, ongoing monitoring, and effective regulatory oversight. These measures provide confidence that potential impacts can be minimised and managed throughout the life of the quarry.

Given the continuing demand for construction materials, the strategic location of the site relative to a growing region, the employment and economic benefits that will be generated, and the ability of modern regulatory systems to effectively manage environmental impacts, I support the approval of this quarry proposal.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Michael O'Sullivan

Registered Surveyor/Project and Infrastructure Manager